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Application Number	09/900,503
Filing Date	07/06/2001
First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
Art Unit	3625
Examiner Name	Smith, Jeffrey A.
Attorney Docket Number	GUID-012CON

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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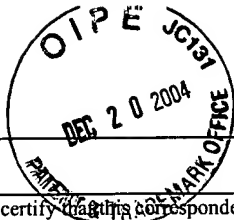
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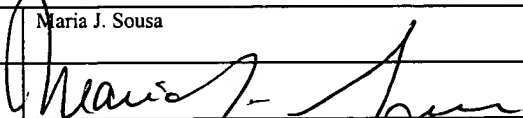
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Address to: Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	GUID-012CON 5237
	First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
	Application Number	09/900,503
	Filing Date	07/06/2001
	Group Art Unit	3625
	Examiner Name	Smith, Jeffrey A.
	Title	Surgical Retractor Platform Blade Apparatus

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 19, 2004 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before January 19, 2005. This response is being filed within the two-month period ending on December 19, 2004. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.